

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending in the application. No claim amendments are presented, thus, no new matter is added.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 3-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. 6,248,946 to Dwek in view of U.S. Pub. 2002/0032027 to Kirani.

The Office Action cites Dwek as disclosing the Applicant's invention with the exception of the client being a "mobile information terminal" and wherein "said unique identification information stored in said mobile information terminal and comprises information identifying a manufacturer of the mobile information terminal."¹ The Office Action cites Kirani as disclosing this claimed feature and states it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references to arrive at Applicant's claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, as Dwek fails to teach or suggest various claimed features for which it is asserted as a primary reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Independent Claim 1 relates a user authentication method for an authentication server which executes user authentication between a mobile information terminal and a content providing server interconnected by an open network. The method includes registering, from the mobile information terminal, unique identification information corresponding to the hardware of the mobile information terminal with a customer database of the authentication server. The method of Claim 1 further comprises:

...presenting, to said mobile information terminal, a recommended menu including a plurality of official site access information for accessing predetermined content providing servers...

¹ Office Action, p. 4.

receiving, from said mobile information terminal, the unique identification information and a request for registering one of said official site access information for accessing said content providing server with a personal menu via the open network...

registering said requested official site access information with said personal menu after receiving an acknowledgement response of said notification from said content providing server...

Independent Claims 9 and 13, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite similar features. Accordingly, the arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1, 9 and 13.

As disclosed in an exemplary embodiment at Fig. 16; p. 17, l. 17-p. 20, l. 15; and p. 24, l. 16-p. 28, l. 12 of the specification, the authentication server first presents a “recommended menu” to the mobile information terminal from which at least one of a plurality of official site access information can be selected by a user. Once it is determined that the user is authorized to access the requested service, the service is registered with the user’s “personal menu.” It should be noted that the “recommended menu” is not modified or customized based on a user’s input – only the “personal menu” is altered after user authentication is complete.

Turning to the applied primary reference, Dwek describes a system for delivering multimedia content to computers 130 over a network. A media player 120 at each computer includes a user interface allowing a listener to search an online database of media selections and build a custom playlist of the music selections desired by the listener.² Dwek, however, fails to teach or suggest the process of registering a “personal menu” based on the selection of “official site access information” from a “recommended menu,” as recited in independent Claim 1.

² Dwek, Abstract and Fig. 1.

In rejecting the claimed features directed to “presenting... a recommended menu including a plurality of ***official site access information for accessing predetermined content providing servers***,” the Office Action relies on col. 4, ll. 26-30:43-67 and col. 10, l. 4-24 of Dwek. These cited portions of Dwek describe an online music library 110 that includes a client interface server 112, an online music database 114 of available songs or music selections, a plurality of song file servers 116 and a plurality of translation/streaming servers 118. These components are used to transmit requested music content to the personal computers 130. Dwek further describes that the online music system 100 may include three different types of channels, namely, preprogrammed channels, user-defined channels, and shared channels, which may be broadcast to a user.

Dwek, however, fails to teach or suggest that a user is presented with a recommended menu including “***a plurality of official site access information for accessing predetermined content providing servers***,” as claimed. Dwek, instead, describes that a user is presented with an interface, which allows the user to download music content, or to listen a particular channel of streamed music content. A menu displaying various music content available for download is not the same as a menu showing site ***access information for accessing predetermined content providing servers*** as claimed.

Independent Claim 1 further recites “receiving, from said mobile information terminal... a request for registering one of said official site access information for ***accessing said content providing server with a personal menu*** via the open network...” In rejecting this claimed feature, the Office Action relies on col. 9, ll. 31-45 and col. 10, ll. 21-47:60-67 of Dwek. These cited portions of Dwek describe that a user may share a playlist, which is stored at the online music library 110 and is accessible to all registered users of the online music system 100. This shared playlist may be broadcast as one of the user defined channels

noted above and can be listened to by other client computers accessing the online music library 110.

However, setting a shared channel is not the same as requesting registration for one of said *official site access information for accessing said content providing server with a personal menu*, as claimed. As an initial matter, and as noted above, selecting from various musical selections is not the same as selecting from *official site access information for accessing said content providing server*. Further, Dwek describes that a user can form a customized channel of content, which is clearly not the same as a requesting items for inclusion in a *personalized menu*, as claimed.

Claim 1 also recites “registering said *requested official site access information with said personal menu* after receiving an acknowledgement response of said notification from said content providing server.” In rejecting this claimed feature, the Office Action again relies on col. 10, ll. 13-67 of Dwek. As noted above, however, this cited portion of Dwek merely describes that a user may create a personalized streaming channel of content, and fails to teach or suggest that the user creates a personalized menu, much less that the menu includes registered *official site access information*, as claimed.

Therefore, Dwek fails to teach or suggest at least the “presenting”, “receiving” and “registering” features recited in independent Claim 1.

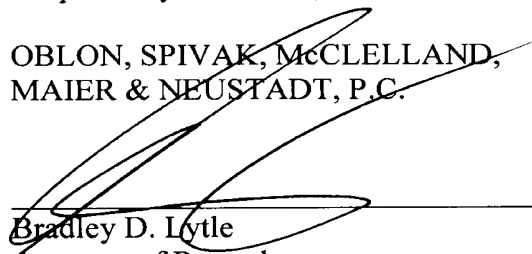
Likewise, Kirani is relied upon only to assert the existence of an identification code in a mobile device and fails to remedy the above noted deficiency in Dwek. Therefore, none of the cited references, neither alone nor in combination teach or suggest Applicant’s Claims 1 and 3-13 which include the above distinguished limitations by virtue of independent recitation or dependency.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1 and 3-13 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Andrew T. Harry
Registration No. 56,959